



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue #5

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

24 June 2010

Cotton Scout School

The Cotton Scouting School that was held last week at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center near Florence, SC, was a success. We thank the following sponsors for their support of the program:

ArborOne Farm Credit
Crop Production Services (SC/Western NC Division)
DuPont Crop Protection
Syngenta Crop Protection

Bayer CropScience
Dow AgroSciences
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Pest Patrol Hotline

Again this year there will be a toll-free hotline for quick updates on insect problems. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Simply call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta Crop Science.

News from Above the Lakes

Please help me thank Russell Duncan, agent covering Clarendon, Florence, and Williamsburg Counties, for helping organize the scouting school scheduled for next week. No other news to report this week. Please email me your comments by Wednesday for inclusion in the newsletter.

News from Below the Lakes

A consultant just below the lakes informed me earlier this week that he has observed a large developing population of heliothines (corn earworm/tobacco budworm) in peanuts.

Cotton Situation

As of 21 June 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 100% of the crop being planted. About 15% of the crop is squaring, about equal to where we were last year at 16% and the 5-yr average of 19%. Conditions were described as 3% excellent, 57% good, 34% fair, 6% poor, and 0% very poor for the crop. Overall moisture levels in the state were described as 9% very short, 41% short, 49% adequate, and 1% surplus. So, every other field has adequate moisture, but half of our acreage is short on moisture. That seems to be the theme of the season so far.

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Public Service Activities

The mention of any commercial product in this publication does not imply its endorsement by Clemson University over other products not named, nor does the omission imply that they are not satisfactory.



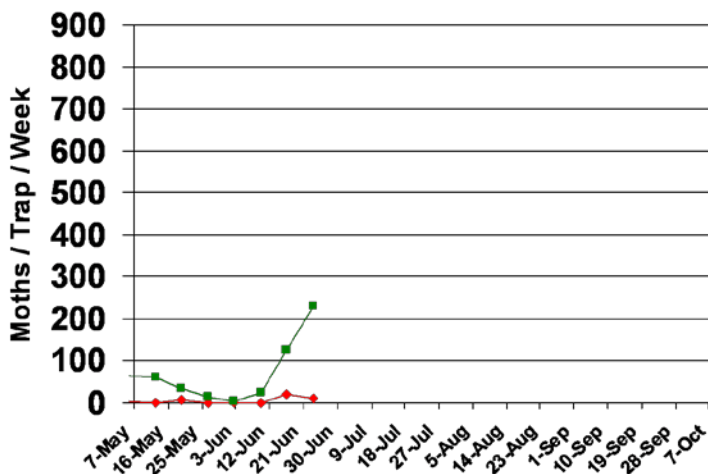
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



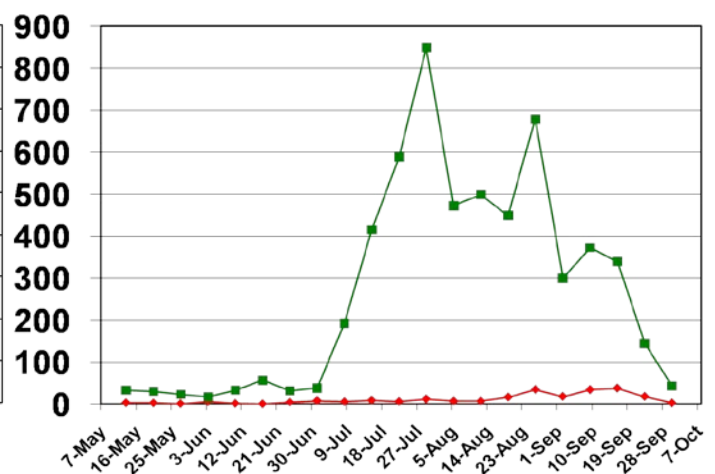
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last season are presented. The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. Again, trap numbers are tracking about where they usually track. We have not observed a peak this high this early in the season within the last 4 seasons. In past seasons (this is my 5th season back in SC), we have typically observed a small peak in mid-late June, followed by a much larger peak beginning in mid-late July. Because the bollworm continues to be an important pest of cotton and soybean, we will continue to monitor the progress of this pest.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



Plant Bugs, Spider Mites, Aphids, Grasshoppers, etc?

It seems like all is too quiet right now in cotton. I am not hearing much about problems with insects in cotton. So, there are no real insect concerns, for the most part, in much of the crop. There might be some fields with issues concerning plant bugs, spider mites, aphids, or grasshoppers, but most of our acreage is probably doing just fine without intervention regarding insects. Beneficial arthropods are building right now, consuming aphids and additional prey items or parasitizing others, so we should continue to not interfere with that process. Those beneficials will help us tremendously before our first application. However, do not stop checking cotton. Consultants and scouts are there to help us find the fields that do need attention for insect problems.

Cotton Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) has been revised for 2010 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/PAGES/ENTOM/IC97.pdf>

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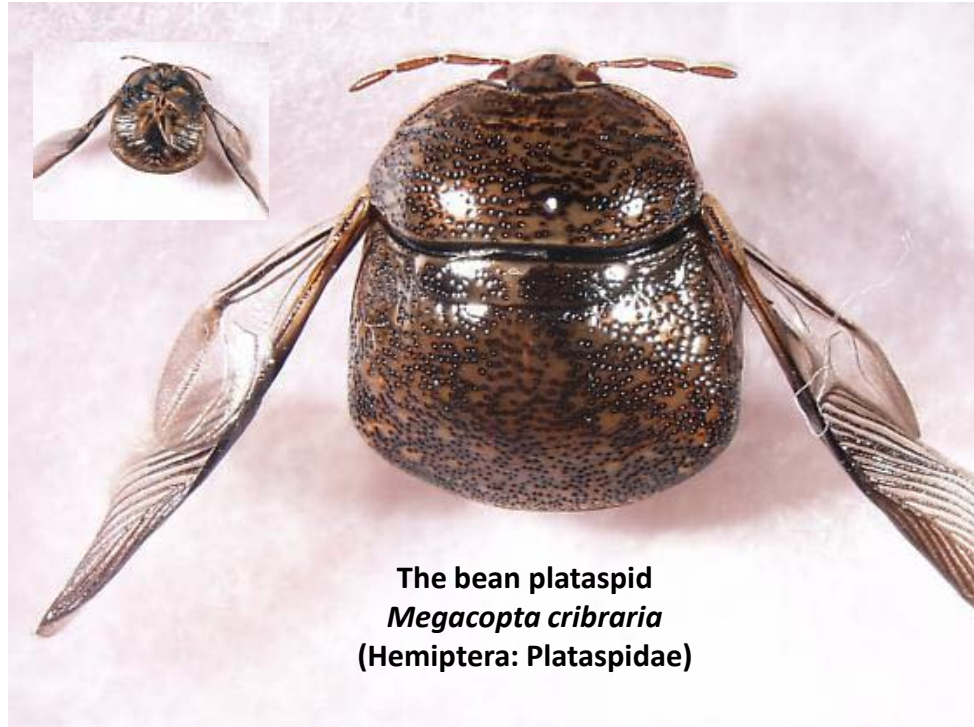


Soybean Situation

As of 21 June 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 91% of the crop being planted, well ahead of progress last year at 83% and the 5-yr average of 81%. About 73% of soybeans have emerged, ahead of where we were last year at 65% and the 5-yr average of 67%. Conditions were described as 2% excellent, 59% good, 33% fair, and 6% poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Wanted: ~~Dead or Alive~~ – the “bean plataspid”

Late last year in portions of Georgia (not too far from soybean areas in SC), an insect species that had not previously been reported in the USA was detected by county Extension personnel. The invasive species was positively identified by experts with private industry, USDA, and UGA as the bean plataspid, *Megacopta cribraria* (Hemiptera: Plataspidae). It is closely related to stink bugs and is a pest of legume crops, including soybeans, in China and India. It was found by the hundreds (if not thousands) on kudzu and on the sides of homes undoubtedly seeking overwintering sites in Oct/Nov. We are actively looking for this pest here in SC, and our SC Soybean Board has funded a portion of a project to help with the search for this pest. If you see this pest in or around kudzu, in noticeable numbers on buildings, or anywhere, please let me know quickly (green4@clemson.edu or 803-300-1160). If you are able to provide GPS coordinates for kudzu patches in your area where you can sweep with a sweep net and confirm the presence or absence of this pest, your help will certainly be more than welcome. We want to detect this pest early this season and do what we can to prevent it from becoming a problem in soybeans. Here are a number of pictures of the wanted species:



**The bean plataspid
Megacopta cribraria
(Hemiptera: Plataspidae)**

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Soybean Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2010 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/PAGES/AGRO/SL1.pdf>

Pest Management Handbook - 2010

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2010 Pest Management Handbook at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Need More Information?

Log on to the following web pages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/research/cotton.html>

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/index.html>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:

<http://www.clemson.edu>

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